



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attorney General Darrell V. McGraw, Jr. Warns Consumers To Be On The Lookout for Unscrupulous Pavers Going Door-To-Door Offering “Leftover” Asphalt

Once the work is done, the paving outfit demands large amounts of money, which were not part of the original deal. In the past, part of the scheme included the con men following the consumer to his bank to withdraw money or get a check cashed. Consumers feel intimidated and generally pay whatever is demanded. In addition, the quality of the work is shoddy. Frequently, the asphalt crumbles or weeds grow through it within a week. “Every summer, these individuals roam our communities victimizing West Virginia consumers,” warns Attorney General McGraw. “Do not be surprised to see them appear in your neighborhood next.”

Tips to follow before hiring a contractor are:

- 1. Avoid door-to-door work crews who often pose as contractors from another job with left over materials, like gravel or roofing supplies
- 2. Avoid a contractor who does not provide a written contract containing all of the terms of the work BEFORE work is started
- 3. Avoid a contractor who can only be reached by leaving a message on an answering machine
- 4. Avoid a contractor who drives an unmarked van or has an out of state license plate on his vehicle
- 5. Avoid a contractor who pressures you for an immediate decision
- 6. Avoid a contractor who offers you a discount for finding him other customers
- 7. Avoid a contractor who quotes a price that is too cheap
- 8. Ask for proof of insurance and find out whether he is bonded. Make sure he takes responsibility for an injury to his workers
- 9. Pay by check or credit card and, if possible, avoid on-the-spot cash payments
- 10. Do not take the contractor’s word that he has a valid contractor’s license. Rather, check with the West Virginia Contractor’s Licensing Board. The Contractor’s Licensing Board’s telephone number is (304) 558-7890

If you have been approached by one of these pavers, please report the matter as quickly as possible to your local police, the

state police or Attorney General McGraw's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-368-8808 or 558-8986. If possible, obtain license plate numbers so that the culprits can later be identified.

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